



THE

KNIGHT



Vol. 8 No. 6 Issue 48. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR April-May 1986

AN EXQUISITE COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION...

TO CELEBRATE LITHUANIA'S CHRISTIANIZATION

DECORATIONS OF THE LIETUVOS ŠAULIŲ SĄJUNGA (INTRO.)

By Vincent W. Alones and Henry L. Gaidis

The Šaulių Sąjunga or literally the "Rifleman's Association" was an official government voluntary organization that functioned as the National Guard of Lithuania from 1919 to 1940. The organization was first established in June, 1919, when journalist Matas Šalčius formed a volunteer unit of civil servants to assist the Lithuanian army in defending Kaunas. As the danger of foreign invasion passed, this unit of civilian riflemen (Šauliai) dispersed.

Vladas Putvinskis-Putvys, one of the early members of the first group, proposed that a permanent auxiliary body of trained volunteers be established. These volunteers would be dedicated to the continual defense of the nation's liberties. On August 8, 1919, Putvinskis founded the first squad of the Šauliai and was elected the first president of the permanent organization. Šalčius served as the first secretary.

On August 20, 1919, the organization was officially



LEFT: Vladas Putvinskis-Putvys (1873-1929), founder of the Šaulių Sąjunga. Photo shows Putvys wearing the Lithuanian Order of Gediminas 2nd class, and the Šaulių Klaipėda Liberation medal.

established under the name Lietuvos Šaulių Sąjunga
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Commemorative Medallion's Oberse Side portraying Lithuanian leaders of Lithuania's Christianization.

In 1987, Lithuanians throughout the world will celebrate the 600th Jubilee of Lithuania's Christianity. Christianity actually came to Lithuania in three phases. In 1251, King Mindaugas adopted Christianity and a small number of Lithuanians also accepted the faith. But Christianity did not "take" in Lithuania until 1387, when, through the efforts of Grand Duke Jogaila, "Aukštaitija", the Highland Region, was baptized, and Lithuania joined the community of Christian nations. In 1413, Grand Duke Vytautas completed the Christianization by bringing the Lithuanian Lowlands, "Zemaitija", into the Christian fold.

These three phases of Lithuania's Christianization are exquisitely portrayed on the Jubilee Medallion that is being struck to commemorate this important Jubilee. The Medallion, which is currently in production at the Medallion Art Company, was designed and sculpted in high relief, by the renowned Vytautas Kasuba, whose works, exhibitions, and awards span several continents. The illustrations above provide a glimpse of the artistic beauty and meaningful content of the Medallion.

The Medallion will be struck in bronze, with an antique finish. It will be 3 inches in diameter (as shown), done in art form with the three phases of Lithuania's Christianity portrayed in beautiful three dimensional detail. It can be yours, as a handsome addition to your

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2. CHRISTIANITY MEDAL...

Continued from page 1...

own collection or a welcome gift to friends and associates. By purchasing one or more medallions, you will also support the Jubilee Committee's many other plans to make this Jubilee a truly memorable one.

It will be available about July 15, 1986. At that time, the Medallion will be sold for \$30.00 each. As a SPECIAL OFFERING, anyone ordering and paying for the Medallion before July 1, 1986, can obtain it for \$25.00.

The Medallion is also available in gold or silver plating over the bronze, for an additional \$5.00 for the silver-plating, an added \$10.00 for the gold-plating. Solid silver medallions are available by special order, as are Galvano plaques, 12 inch bronze castings of the original art work, suitable for hanging. Galvano prices depend also in the number of orders received.

Orders can be placed now, through Medallion Chairman Loretta I. Stukas, 234 Sunlit Dr., Watchung, NJ. 07060.



Commemorative Medallion's Reverse Side — Text emphasizing the phases of Lithuania's Christianization.

THE OBERSE SIDE...

portrays the Lithuanian leaders King Mindaugas and Grand Dukes Jogaila and Vytautas and indicates the year each led a specific phase of the Lithuanian nation's Christianization.

Each leader's profile is cast on a background of a shield. The rhythmic outline of the shields emphasize the unity of purpose of the leader's determination to bring Christianity to Lithuania.

Three crosses atop the crowns accentuate the three major phases of Lithuania's Christianization.

THE REVERSE SIDE...

provides the text of the titles and honors assigned the leaders by the Holy See during the Christianization, and the names of the Popes responsible for the titles. The text is placed symmetrically at the top and bottom of the medal, again emphasizing the phases of the Christianization, and those responsible for those phases.

A central dominant cross symbolizes Christianity. In the background, the Vilnius Cathedral and Bell Tower

symbolizes the strength of the Christian faith in Lithuania.

A Knight (VYTIS), the National Symbol, emphasizes the fact that the entire nation accepted Christianity.

ABOUT THE ARTIST...



Medallion Sculptor — Vytautas Kasuba.

The artistic beauty and meaningful content of the Lithuanian Christianization Jubilee Commemorative Medallion reflects the remarkable talents of sculptor Vytautas Kasuba, whose exhibitions and awards span several continents and two oceans, and include work at three World's Fairs, exhibitions in Paris, Tokyo, New York and his native Lithuania.

Born in 1915 in Minsk of Lithuanian parents, Mr. Kasuba returned to Lithuania in 1918, graduated in 1939 from the National Art School in Kaunas, Lithuania and later returned there to teach sculpture and serve as head of its Department of Sculpture. Kasuba emigrated to the United States in 1947 and currently resides in New York with his wife, Architect Aleksandra.

Since 1952, Mr. Kasuba has been engaged primarily in commissioned architectural work on liturgical themes, executing large scale works in hammered lead, cast, bronze, stone and wood. He is also responsible for several commemorative art medallions, including one commemorating the 300th Anniversary of Vilnius University.

Large or small, Vytautas Kasuba's work pulsates with artistic insight. Aleksis Rannis of Yale University and member of the International Association of Art Critics, Paris, says of Kasuba's work:

"...The contour of his heavy, architectural figures show a hard and archaic quality, but the surfaces of these sculptures pulsate with an extraordinary, sensitive, lyrical colorfulness, infinitely faint yet severely disciplined..."

The above news release, nicely type-set, was copied from the April issue of Vytis, the official publication of the Knights of Lithuania.

We wish the medal committee success, and encourage our LNA members to participate and order one for their own collections.

PHILADELPHIA TOKENS

The Philadelphia Lithuanian Gediminas club was founded around 1895, and established its permanent headquarters at 2715 E. Allegheny Ave. This group was one of several Lithuanian groups in Philadelphia at the turn of the century. Philadelphia, PA has a long history of Lithuanian settlers. See The Knight August-September 1900 pp. 6-7 for a short history, written by Walter E. Norton, and Dr. Alexander M. Račkus.

According to that article, there is some documentary evidence that some Lithuanians resided in Philadelphia before 1775. The signature of Robert Tuckniss appears on the old Colonial 4, 7, and 20 dollar bills of Pennsylvania, printed in Philadelphia in 1775. In addition, the signature of a "J. DUNDAS" appears on 5 dollar bills issued September 26, 1778. The great Lithuanian, Thaddeus Kosciuszko (Tadas Kosciuška) also lived in Philadelphia for a short time.

An influx of Lithuanians came to Philadelphia during the U.S. Civil War. Records show that approximately 500 Lithuanians served on each side in that conflict.

According to our quoted article (ca. 1950), "Lithuanians contributed much towards the economical and cultural growth of Philadelphia. They came from the old country to Philadelphia penniless, without the knowledge of the English language, without friends or education, only with a courage and determination to work hard and to be useful citizens, and how well they succeeded. It is really marvelous. With their magnificent buildings, halls, churches, schools, and other cultural centers in Philadelphia. They have four churches (3 catholic, 1 protestant), 3 parochial schools, their nice Musical Hall, and other nice establishments."

"Lithuanians out of sheer necessity for their own protection and spiritual comfort organized many fraternal, social, charitable and cultural organizations. Nostalgic reminiscences about their unfortunate kinsfolks' suffering under Russian semi-barbarous yolk, urged the Philadelphia Lithuanians to help those whom they left behind in Lithuania. They did, and are proud of it. Some of the organizations issued curious looking metallic money tokens. They are very interesting as relics of the past activities of those Lithuanian organizations in Philadelphia."



Illustrated above is one of numerous tokens issued by the Lithuanian Gediminas Club. This club finally merged with the Lithuanian Music Hall Association, and these tokens were used by that group, also. Use of the tokens were discontinued about 1940.

There were many different tokens issued by the LGC, and appear to be very old, ca. 1900. Most are quite similar in design, and bear the initials "L.G.C." with "5" on the reverse. Die changes and minor design differences account for the different tokens. These were struck in aluminum, 24 mm. diameter average.

Another series of tokens, issued in brass, were stamped "L.G.C." and the numerals 1, 2, or 3, to denote the amount of change in cents. Later, they were all used for 5¢ value, and used through the early 1940's.



Left:
L.G.C. 3¢ token,
Brass. 23 mm.

One unusual token is stamped "L.G.C." and the numeral "711" at the bottom. These were used as wardrobe checks. Brass, 21 mm. diameter, illustrated below.



Although we've seen some Chicago Lithuanian tokens on the numismatic market, we've never seen any Philadelphia ones. We would appreciate any information on Lithuanian tokens used in other U.S. cities.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Robert J. Douchis, LNA Director.

Membership remained strong with a 95% renewal rate as we conclude our 8th year. We currently have 117 paid memberships of which 43 are original charter members. This year 41 members made a contribution in excess of the basic \$10 membership donation, for which we are very grateful. We have approximately \$650 in the treasury after costs for this issue are deducted. Our LNA camera has been very useful in the past year for obtaining illustrations.

For the benefit of our newer members who may not be aware, we are a not-for-profit volunteer association. Your basic \$10 membership donation covers only the printing and mailing cost of The Knight. We rely solely upon your donations to cover special projects (such as book translations) which we have been able to send to our members through the years.

Its membership renewal time again! You'll soon be receiving your membership renewal notice by a separate mailing. We found this method far superior to a renewal coupon. Also, to make it easier on yours truly, I'll be enclosing your membership card with the notice. Spread the word about the LNA to your Lithuanian collector friends, and sign them up!

Printed below is our current membership roster. We never give out addresses without permission. If you would like to contact someone, send your initial letter to us, and we'll forward it.

* Gift in excess of basic donation

CM-Charter member

+ Paid in advance

xxx-Regular membership number

I Institutional membership

CM Rev. Peter J. Alisauskas, PA
 CM Vincent W. Alones, NY
 I ANA Library, CO
 I ANS Library, NY
 162* John Armonas, OH
 CM Jonas Z. Augustinius, IL
 CM* Frank J. Backitis, SC
 CM*+ John W. Balchunis, VA
 221* Alphonse J. Balsis, NJ
 CM Balzekas Museum, IL
 CM* Dennis O. Bartaszkiewicz, NJ
 CM* Edward J. Bochniak, NY
 132* Julius W. Boris, MA
 I Bridges Newsletter, NY
 239 Marjorie Brooks, NY
 240 David P. Budd, OH
 CM Raymond R. Budd, OH
 185 Michael S. Burokas, NJ
 241 John C. Busanovich, PA
 243 Michael P. Buzako, NY
 140* Kęstutis Chesonis, MD
 CM George M. Daru, PA
 CM Leonard DeLang, APO CA
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 CM* Victor Dulkis, NY
 227 Lt. Bill Emeson, ND
 CM* J. Graham Esler, Canada
 129 Henry L. Gaidis, MD
 125* Stan N. Gaizutis, NV
 CM* Cassy Garelis, Mich
 CM* John Glynn, England
 218 William T. Grasska, CA
 233 J.R. Greene, MA
 134 Ray Hafsaas, WA
 196 Edward Hartfik, Mich
 149 Russell A. Hibbs, KY
 122 Ruth W. Hill, MO
 CM Don R. Hiltunen, MICH
 156 John G. Humphris, OH
 199 Janis Jekabson, NE

CM* Carl Kazakauskas, PA
 191 Sally Kirka, CT
 154 Albert G. Kenrick, NY
 179 Brian J. Kenny, CT
 193* Algirdas Kepalas, NY
 219* Douglas W. Komer, Mich
 CM Herman A. Krajewski, CT
 186 Guntis Kuskevics, CA
 124*+ Bronislaw Lazauskas, CT
 CM* Peter Leonard, PA [Deceased, see pg. 8]
 225 Tal Liepa, IA
 192* Bonaventure J. Linkus, NJ
 I Lithuanian Consulate, NY
 I Lithuanian Consulate, DC
 220 Richard Lizdenis, MA
 195 Al Loja, TX
 224 Peter A. Manti, IL
 CM* Roland Martick, MA
 245 John Maske, CO
 CM* Frances Maslana, AZ
 CM* V.L.G. Matelis, FL
 237 Gordon Matulionis, MD
 CM* Charles Matuzas, NY
 200 Juozas Mikaila, Mich
 CM* Edward F. Mikutis, IL
 223*+ Casimir V. Milukys, NY
 204 Sarunas Mingela, Mich
 CM Missouri Numismatic Society, MO
 222* Algerd S. Monstavicius, CA
 229 John A. Muscalus, PA
 168 Edward S. Muszynski, Mich
 226 John B. McCaugherty, IL
 209* Jerome J. Norton, NY
 CM* Robert Novak, CA
 I The Observer, IL
 CM* James Zane Olson, IL
 170 James A. Parr, NY
 CM* Frank Passic, Mich
 207* J.N. Petraitis, PA
 188* Donald C. Pickering, NH
 235 Andy Plioplys, Canada
 198 Broni Podbel, NY

CM Edward V. Bruckun, DE
 136 Aleksandras Radzius, Jr. MD
 CM Ginger Rapsus, IL
 215 Charles A. Robbins, MS
 151* Paul Rog, MN
 CM Algirdas Ruzgas, NY
 242 Joseph R. Saltmeris, AR
 203 George J. Schumacher, CA
 126 Xavier Servais, BELGIUM
 CM Peter Shulin, PA
 232 Richard S. Shinkus, IL
 211 Michael T. Shutterly, MD
 238 Marshall Smith, WA
 228 Tyge Sondergaard, DENMARK
 183 Adolph V. Stankus, Jr. CA
 CM Mel Steinberg, CA
 CM Karl Stephens, CA
 CM* Algirdas Sudentas, MA
 172 Joseph Tamosuinas, CA
 187 Robert J. Thomas, MD
 206 Edmund P. Tutlys, MA
 123 J. Vabalas, CT
 140 Gediminas Vaitkus, NM
 194 S. Valatka, NJ
 CM Raymond Variakojis, OH
 236* Jesse Vasys, TX
 CM* William Velms, CT
 244 Joseph A. Vorozilchiak, PA
 CM Paul Waichulaitis, WI
 CM* James B. White, FL
 205 John P. Witter, FINLAND
 I World Coin News, WI
 CM* Kazmier Wysocki, NJ
 200 Michael Yanuskevich, NH
 161 Kenneth C. Yurgil, IL
 230 Frank Zapolis, IL
 CM* Edward D. Zemaitis, NY
 159* Vincent Zemaitis, NY
 175 Peter G. Zinkus, MA
 I Coin World, OH

We welcome Lucian Chojecki from Michigan who just joined in April.

If you have been putting off returning the Punkte note survey form included with the last issue of The Knight, please do it now. Returns have been slow in coming in. We need the information if we are to make any meaningful conclusions, etc.

MUSEUM PROGRESS REPORT 5.

The move into the new museum will occur sometime in June. The grand opening is scheduled for sometime in September. We will keep you informed. The museum will be open at it's new location, 6500 S. Pulaski Road in Chicago (60629) in June, although understandably not all exhibits will be totally in place.

Your editor has selected a numismatic room; it is approximately 12 feet wide, and 20 feet long. At this writing, he has a tremendous amount of work to do, to prepare a Lithuanian numismatic exhibit. wish him luck...

We thank all of you who have sent donations in to cover the costs of assembling this numismatic room. Enclosed as an insert with this issue of The Knight is a museum "Buy a Brick" brochure. We ask all our LNA members to seriously consider helping us financially at this critical time. In the next few weeks, we must purchase several coin exhibit cases, exhibit construction materials, such as felt background, currency holders, etc. All this takes money. Gifts are tax-deductible.

If you would like to make a donation, please fill out the enclosed insert, and clearly mark/designate your gift to the Numismatic Department. We are keeping a list and using these special funds to help organize the Lithuanian numismatic room. Donors will have their names engraved on a special LNA plaque which will be part of the exhibit room and numismatic office. Persons giving a gift of \$100 or more will receive a free \$20 value Lithuanian language cassette with booklet.

Thank you for your support. Frank Passic, editor, The Knight, Numismatic Curator, Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture.

MEDAL UPDATE



THE WHEEL OF
INDUSTRY IS HERE
AT THE 8 o'clock POSITION.

LNA member Tyge Sondergaard sends us his information on the Galdikas medal featured in the last issue of The Knight.

His medal (photocopied here) is bronze, 60 mm. diameter, 86 grams weight, and the rim 5 mm. thick.

After the signature "A GALDIKAS" comes "INV" On the reverse is the minter's, "HUGUENIN FEC."



HUGUENIN FEC.

6. LITHUANIAN COPPER SHILLINGS AND THEIR MINTAGES 1663-1667

[Continued from last issue...]

BY: STASYS JANUŠONIS

On the other hand, to fulfill within the Lithuanian Grand Duchy the 1659 constitution wasn't that easy. In the first place, it faced financial difficulties. It was inconceivable to raise taxes quickly in a ravaged land, while the constitution urgently required that from those funds, it was necessary to establish a GDL [Grand Duchy of Lithuania] money mint at Lithuania's Brasta [Note: In history, Brest-Litvosk], as the safest location.

In executing the provisions of the 1659 Congress, the Tribunal delegates reactivated by the GDL National Treasury⁹ met at Gardinas to discuss the country's financial problems, of which the most important was the opening of the money mints, since truly with the help of the mints it would be possible to pay off the army's arreages. Remembering the debt of the former moneyer M. Verbek-Letov, which the former still owed since he had taken the money for the Vilnius mint operating from 1652 to 1653, and had not refunded the remainder to the National Treasury, the Tribunal delegates on August 13, 1659 litigated with him for the return of the debt.¹⁰ Unsuccessful in reclaiming actual cash from the former moneyer of the Vilnius mint, so necessary to establish a new money mint at Lithuanian Brasta, the deputies found no other avenue to raise the funds and solve that particularly difficult problem. They turned the matter over to the National Treasury Administrator, A.M. Sakevičius, and authorized him to open up the money mint as soon as possible, so that from its production, the debt to the army could be paid.¹¹

After long assurances and pressure, A.M. Sakevičius finally concluded an agreement with T.L. Boratini (this was spiritedly opposed by the right wing of the army, headed by the Great Hetman P. Sapiega) who consented to strike Lithuanian copper shillings at his subordinate Ujazdov mint.

Though striking of this money, because of the obstruction by the army subservient to P. Sapiega, was delayed for a year, nevertheless in 1660-1661, T.L. Boratini struck Lithuanian copper shillings in the sum of 1 million auksinas or 90 million units at the Ujazdov mint, and paid into the GDL National Treasury for them 300,000 auksinas as rental fees. Lacking raw silver, the contractor did not complete his promised contract--he did not strike Lithuanian silver coins, so the National Treasury failed to receive its 50,000 auksinas.¹² The final accounting for this mint could not be found, since the settlement accounts of T.L. Boratini were destroyed during the revolt in Warsaw in 1944.¹³

At this time, we must be satisfied with the fact that they were struck. In the settlement of National Treasury Administrator A.M. Sakevičius' accounts, receipt is acknowledged of the entire rental sum for the striking of the copper shillings.

We must add that those receipts failed to achieve the desired results: it did not prevent the final confederation (unionization) of the GDL army, since the sum realized was but a drop in the sea of the confederation's demands. As far back as 1657, the GDL army attempted to organize a general confederation at Chvoroščius.¹⁴ [Note: Communist ideology requires promoting the "proletariat" theme in published manuscripts, which is what we are probably seeing here in this and other paragraphs]. Then another effort more real but no less unsuccessful was repeated in 1660, January, at Drohične.¹⁵ True, in the same year, in the months of April and May, it fell apart, since once again, the soldiers put faith into the empty promises of the National Treasury commissars. Finally becoming convinced of the powerlessness of the National Treasury, confirmed by the unambiguous information submitted by A.M. Sakevičius¹⁷, on September 6, 1661, in a quasi-Congress, the army began to create a real confederation. This movement was greatly encouraged by finding incriminating material implicating the army's leaders, Chancellor Pacas and other magnates from which it became clear that they not only paid no taxes but were the recipients of princely subsidies, while their struggling and impoverished brothers under the flag received but the rubbish. So on September 7 1661, both wings of the army began negotiations toward a confederation,¹⁸ first, dismissing from his post the Grand Hetman P. Sapiega, the Field Hetman M. Pacas, all colonels and a number of lower class officers.¹⁹ On September 11, 1661, with the Poludovičius confederates having elected their own staff, as Marshall, Vilnius cabinet maker Žeronskis, his assistant, Kotovskis, the formation of the confederacy was completed.²⁰

Controversy began between the two powers, competition and friction reaching its culmination point, when on November 29, 1662, the confederates brutally eliminated the GDL Field Hetman and the National Treasury's official V. Gosievski and the Confederation's Marshal Žeronskis, a sympathizer of his.²¹ Reaction to this act, within the country as well as abroad, was disapproval.²² People began to look upon the confederates not as the defenders of their legitimate rights, or idealists, as in the past, but rather as a gang of thieves...A commotion broke out within the encampment itself. A riot among the lesser boyars and knights temporarily united to the royal flag all those competing groups among the gentry. Sensing a danger to their own existence, joining together,

Continued next issue...

SAULIŲ SAJUNGA

(Lithuanian Rifleman's Association). The Saulių constitution was approved by the Lithuanian Defense Ministry on September 15, 1919, and the organization immediately began its long continued history of assisting the nation.

The first military action of the Šauliai was assisting the Lithuanian army in arresting members of the Polish Organizacja Wojskowa (Polish Army Organization). The POW was a secret organization of Polish-Lithuanian nationalists who planned an insurrection in Kaunas. The POW hoped the newly founded Lithuanian Republic would be overthrown and the nation thereafter joined in a confederation with Poland. The Šauliai subsequently engaged the forces of the German-White Russian Bermondists which overran a large part of northern Lithuania. The Šauliai took an active combat roll on the front lines fighting alongside the Lithuanian army as well as functioning as scouts and partisans behind enemy lines.

Following the end of hostilities, the organization established its permanent headquarters at Kaunas (the capital city of Vilnius was occupied by the Poles in 1920) with five regional field-staffs across the country. During the independence period, the organization remained in a strong paramilitary state and pursued a program of cultural action. The Šauliai through various programs worked to strengthen the patriotic and civic consciousness of the Republic. The organization took the major role in the military liberation of Klaipėda (Memel) from Germany/Allied Powers in 1923. Through the direct action of the Šauliai, the city was liberated prior to the entry of any regular army units.

During the years of peace, the Šauliai units maintained their military preparedness and fostered civil involvement in the areas of: fire fighting, law enforcement, aviation, naval advancement, sports, hygiene, nursing, and general social work. By 1940 there were 23 Saulių rinktinės (detachments) consisting of 1200 būriai (squads) numbering 42,000 officers and soldiers; 5,000 auxiliaries and 15,000 women members across the country.

Along with official government status, the Lietuvos Saulių Sąjunga was conferred the right to award military decorations and medals. Among the awards conferred by the Šauliai were the Klaipėda Liberation Medal, the Guardian Star Order, the Guardian Star Order Medal, and various types of merit decorations. These will be described in detail in future issues of The Knight.

Continued from page 1...

7.



ABOVE: A Lithuanian National Guard group in Independent Lithuania.

With the 1940 Soviet occupation of Lithuania, the Saulių Sąjunga was ordered liquidated and all its weapons and holdings confiscated. Due to their patriotic zeal, a large number of Šauliai members were arrested, killed, or deported to Siberia. Šauliai members later took an active role in the Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF) which liberated Lithuania from Soviet rule in June, 1941, during the early stages of the German invasion of the USSR. Its members were also a mainstay for volunteers serving in the 1941 recruited Lithuanian Defense Battalions and the 1944 recruited Plechavičius Territorial Corps formed to fight against the advancing Soviet Army. The second Soviet occupation in Lithuania (1944) resulted in the arrest of Šauliai members, with many fleeing to the west. Other members took to the forests and were active in the 1944-1956 Lithuanian partisan movement.

In 1954, former members of the Šauliai reconstructed the organization with the official incorporation of the Lietuvos Saulių Sąjunga Tremtyje (National Guard of Lithuania in Exile), in the State of Illinois. Though the organization's military functions have been suspended, it still remains active in the Lithuanian exile community. Šauliai members take an active part in the general effort to maintain Lithuanian ethnic identity and to promote the cause of Lithuanian independence. In keeping with its military tradition, the National Guard in Exile continues to wear military uniforms and to award medals and decorations authorized by the Republic of Lithuania. National Guard chapters can be found today in Illinois, Ohio, New York, California, and other cities in the US and Canada. The guard's current commander is Karolis Milkovaitis who has been of assistance to the authors in various matters concerning the organization and its history.

THE KNIGHT, Volume 8, No. 6, Issue #48. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. Robert J. Douchis, DIRECTOR. Subscription/membership: \$10 for 6 bi-monthly issues (June to May). Write: LNA, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, MD 21045. Editor's address: 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224. The LNA is a member of the American Numismatic Association C-117903

8. ADS

A FREE service to non-commercial LNA members!

FOR SALE (or Trade): Order of Gediminas 1st Class sash and badge; Sauliai Breast Badge; Petras Rimša Vytautas the Great medal, small size. I am interested in Lithuanian militaria. J. Vasys, 208 N. Crest, San Antonio, TX 78213. (512) 340-7950

WANTED: Copies of back issues of The Knight to complete my set: Nos: 2-5, 7, 9-14, 16, 17, 20, 22, and 35. (or photocopies)

Also: View postcards of Lithuania and Klaipėda/Memel (pre-WWII), and the book Timeless Lithuania (Chicago, 1942) by Owen No-rem.

Also wanted: 1916 3 kopek "Ost" iron coin from "A" mint in XF or better. J.R. GREENE, 33 Bearsden Road, Athol, Mass 01331.

FOR SALE: 5 x 7 color glossy photo of "new" P-21A 500 Lity note Obverse (Aug. 15, 1924). \$10. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224.

FOR SALE: Historic World War II United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America postcard. Colorful, shows ruins, landscape, etc. "Lighten the Burden of the War Victims of Lithuania." \$5.00

Also, Custom Capital Plastic Lithuanian coin holders for 14 pc. circulation set 1925-1938. \$20

Y-13 1936 10 Lity (Vytautas) \$60

Y-12 1936 5 Litai (Basanavičius) silver, \$18 each, or 3 for \$45.

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 4012 Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632.



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LETTERS

I read your newsletter The Knight on a monthly basis and usually find the material to be excellent, but I have to object to some items that I saw in the Feb-March issue in regard to Lithuanian numismatics and other countries which Lithuania interacted politically.

On page 2 you refer to the commemorative medal being minted for the Polish American Numismatic Association as celebrating the "600th Anniversary of the Polish-Lithuanian union." Nowhere does the medal say anything about a Polish-Lithuanian union which you point out took place after the Lublin Union of 1569. Check your facts on the medal.

Your comment on the same page, "It is interesting to note that just how Poland and Russia throughout history have tried to claim Lithuania as their own, that some numismatic groups are doing the same thing themselves," referred to the fact that at both the PANA and the RNS dealt with subject matter relating to Lithuania.

Do you really think that any country's numismatic history is not influenced by that of some others? If you don't feel that they have the right to discuss Lithuanian numismatics in addition to their own when we know that historically they influence each other, then how do you justify the comment on page 7, "Tell your Polish collector friends about this important series..."

Usually you put out a fine newsletter. Let's keep national pride out of the way of common sense when dealing with numismatics and related clubs.

Best regards, Richard Giedraitis, OH (Giedroyc)

[Excellent letter. we'll keep this in mind in the future. We've all probably been aware that national pride has been a prominent theme in numismatic writings of some of our noted Lithuanian numismatists, and that it is easy to carry this over. But we also must face facts that Lithuania's numismatics was/is inter-related with both Poland and Russia. We should be happy that information is brought out and shared, no matter from what group, although we all still choose to keep our separate numismatic identities.

I suppose there will always be differences of opinions of interpretation of facts, history, politics, national pride, (this publication will express the Lithuanian viewpoint) in our countries numismatics, but we should respect these differences and not undermine the integrity of each other's beliefs and groups. I apologize if this was done in the article you mentioned. --ED.]

I am writing to let you know that my brother, Peter P. Leonard, a charter LNA member, has passed away on March 21, 1986 at age 56. I know Peter enjoyed reading every issue of The Knight.

Realizing that subscription/membership dues are coming up, I would like to keep receiving The Knight, as I also enjoy reading it. Enclosed is my check. Thank you very much.

---Judith J Leonard. PA

Keep up the good work with The Knight. I haven't read a dull one yet! --J.R. Greene, Mass.

I am very pleased with the latest issue. The new printing method is really an improvement, much easier to read than in the past. Keep up the good work. --Michael T. Shutterly, MD.